



14th. October 1966(

JIMMIE N. LAWRENCE

P.O. Box 8113

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICA

Sgt. & Mrs. R. Bronson.  
N.C.W. Co-Chairmen.  
P.O. Box 241.  
Grandview, Miss. U.S.A.

Dear Rick & Co.

Thanks a lot for your letter received on our return to South Africa. Yes, I am willing to participate again this year. But I would like to know if you could answer these few questions for me and many other collectors over the World, who have written to me about the N.C.W.

Also at the Convention at Winnipeg (Canada) I attended a meeting where, I also overheard that members of the C.N.A. are intending to enter in the American N.C.W. but that they would like the name changed.

1... Why has the date been changed from all year to January 1, 1967 for point accrual?

2... Is it not about time the American Numismatic Association thought about their members in other countries; Why keep the name; National Coin Week. If they want other countries to enter in this competition they should change to "International". also, COIN. as far as we are concerned this sure means coins; why not change this to read NUMISMATIC. So then we would include, Coins, Paper Money, Medals & Tokens, etc. etc. What would look better than....

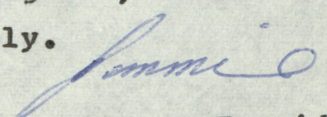
International Numismatic Week.

I am sure you agree with me. I do feel that we would attract more members from other countries.

All the same, what ever happens, I will again try this year.

Best regards,

Sincerely.

  
Jimmie Lawrence. President I.B.N.S.



24 October 1966

Mr. Jimmie N. Lawrence  
P.O. Box 8113  
Johannesburg, South Africa

Dear Jimmie:

Thanks very much for your letter, and for the opportunity to exchange views with you in regard to National Coin Week. Constructive criticism and healthy discussion have been the basis for many significant changes in our association, and I welcome the opportunity to express my opinions on the matters you wrote to us about. Let me say first though, that NCW 1967 is already on the way, and it is too late to change this year. Also, my opinions are mine alone, and not necessarily those of the association. I am sending a copy of your letter and my reply to Matt Rothert, our president, Virginia Culver, NCW Liaison on the ANA Board of Governors, and Jack Koch, ANA Executive Director, for their consideration and comments. I hope that the 1968 chairman may have a better understanding of the association's National Coin Week goals through the points raised in our correspondence.

First, in relation to the Canadian Numismatic Association's action at their convention, don't you rather believe that this was just a candid admission on their part that Canadian Coin Week was a failure, and that the CNA is not willing to expend funds and talent on further pursuit of an independent program? Further, members of CNA are not eligible to participate for awards in the National Coin Week program.... unless they are also members of the American Numismatic Association or an ANA club. To develop this further: Why not call it International Coin Week! I do not object to that at all! ....but... Let the Canadian Numismatic Association conduct their own contest and awards program, the ANA theirs, the Royal Numismatic Association theirs, and the International Bank Note Society theirs. Anyone could participate! Anyone, in fact, can participate now! Only ANA members may compete



Jimmie Lawrence, 24 Oct 66, page 2

for ANA awards, though, under the present system. In my opinion, this is as it should be. ANA members should not be required to finance the public relations programs of other organizations.

As to the reasoning behind the decision to begin point accrual for NCW activities as of January 1, 1967, the following were factors considered.

(a) Many people (ANA members and ANA club members) are not too familiar with NCW. Also, a rather large number of new ANA members and clubs have been recruited in the last year. We felt that equal opportunity should be afforded all of these people, and since the 1967 NCW promotional material is not being mailed until about 1 November 1966, the logical date that immediately came to mind was 1 January 1967.

(b) Prior to last year, the year round coin week concept had not been used. There had always been established dates for point accrual.

(c) We felt that activities undertaken in May or June of 1966, for example, could really have very little bearing on National Coin Week in April of 1967.

(d) We believed that, if the year round concept was undertaken, many clubs and individuals would start strong, but give up or taper off before the year was up and NCW actually arrived.

(e) By limiting the time for point accrual, a stronger, more concentrated and cohesive program can be achieved.

(f) Point accrual only during NCW itself was considered, but many preparations are made in the intervening weeks prior to the actual event, including advance publicity, correspondence relative to proclamations, etc., and this material should be eligible for inclusion in the report. Again, the logical date, 1 January 1967, came to mind.

(g) It is our conception of NCW that emphasis should be placed on interesting the non-numismatist in our hobby, rather than addressing the program toward the experienced collector. Therefore, we have reduced the emphasis on coin shows and conventions (as opposed to public coin exhibits). Shows and conventions conducted during the point gathering period therefore will not carry a club to victory by themselves in 1967.

Regarding your second point, Jimmie, we feel that the ANA could never be accused of neglecting her overseas members. Of some 25,000



Jimmie Lawrence, 24 Oct 66, page 3

individual members in the association, only about 600 are not residents of the United States. Of approximately 1200 clubs in the ANA, less than 50 are located outside the United States. Further, only 10 reports were submitted from clubs of individuals outside the United States in 1966, despite Lois Ollis's marvelous (but expensive) work in this quarter. Now, look to the National Coin Week Awards for 1966! Of a total of 30 awards presented, no less than 9 went to Class X and Y, Clubs and individuals outside the United States! If this does not prove that the ANA is concerned with its members overseas, I am not a very good mathematician. Besides, you know that no other numismatic organization, world-wide, does as much for the hobby, world-wide, as the ANA!

I have already covered the international aspect of your suggestions to some extent, but feel that I should point out that the Federal Charter of our association and its stated objectives, which are published periodically in the Numismatist, represent the ANA as a national organization, not an international one. This is not to say that the ANA does not welcome all dedicated numismatists, no matter what their nationality. I would venture to guess that ANA is the closest thing to an international numismatic organization in the world today, but, in essence, it is a national organization. We feel that it is part of our responsibility in this job to maintain, as far as possible, a balanced program for the good of all the membership, offering similar opportunities to each member.

As to the use of the word "numismatic" instead of "coin", I agree that "numismatic" would be more accurate. However, we are trying to reach the general public, noncollectors, and in America, "numismatic" is not a common household word and "coin" is a very familiar term. Most people here will feel a stirring of interest in "coin collecting", but do not even know the meaning of the word "numismatics". It is unfortunate, but true, and these are the people that we are trying to reach with the program. We all try to use the word "numismatic" in association with our hobby so that eventually all will know it, but that is not yet the case.

I imagine by now that you have me pictured as a thorough-going isolationist, not interested in the international scene. Nothing could be further from the truth. I am genuinely interested in international



Jimmie Lawrence, 24 Oct 66, page 4

numismatics. I have traveled fairly extensively in Europe and in the Orient, and have never been to a place I didn't like (excepting maybe Korea). My wife and I collect coins of the world, medals, paper money, and odd and curious items, and have less than 20 United States coins in our whole collection. I hope that you will understand better, if not agree with, our views now. We certainly would be interested in hearing more from you.

By the way, will the South African (Pretoria) Mint ever open up their order list again, so that I may order South African coins direct? We are very interested to know how we can go about getting on their mailing list.

If I might make a suggestion, since your collection consists mainly of banknotes, and you are in a position to do so, why not declare International Bank Note Week in conjunction and concurrently with National Coin Week. Publicize the banknote aspect, but submit the report for National Coin Week as usual. We don't want to be hard to get along with. If the activity promotes numismatics and falls within our established rules, it can be considered a Coin Week activity, and since National and Coin truly do not fit in your case, I am sure no one will object. In any event, you have our support and guarantee that for 1967, if you use International Bank Note Week in your publicity, we will not downgrade your report for it.

I hope that you and your wife are well, and we are looking forward to seeing you in Florida if you can make it.

Sincerely yours,

The Bronsons  
Rick & Virginia Bronson



September 25, 1966

Mr. Jimmie Lawrence  
P.O. Box 8113  
Johannesburg, South Africa

Dear Jimmie:

We were sorry to hear about your loss at the ANA Convention, and hope that your valuables will still be located.

Regarding National Coin Week, the dates for 1967 will be April 22-29 and the competition will officially begin January 1, 1967 for point accrual. We are hoping you will participate again this year, as your contribution to Coin Week is of invaluable aid to the hobby.

Letters will be air mailed to all clubs and requesting individuals overseas November 1st. We have taken the liberty of adding your name and address to the list for this mailing.

We were very happy to meet both you and your wife, and hope that you will be able to attend the 1967 convention in Florida.

Sincerely,

Rick & Virginia Bronson